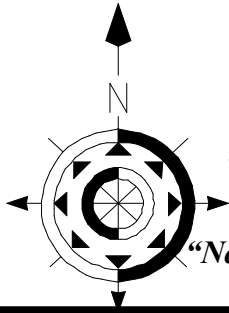


THE JOURNEY



Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227
The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter
“Serving Veterans and the Community in Northern Virginia”



In Service to America

“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

September 2014

WHO IS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY?

The September 18th membership meeting features Marc Leepson, chapter member, journalist, and historical author, who will discuss the life of Francis Scott Key, the author of our national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner.” Marc’s book, What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life is the first biography in seventy-five years on this early American history figure.

Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, will collect used bath towels and hotel size toiletries for our community outreach to The Lamb Center, a local daytime homeless shelter that offers VA case workers space to service homeless veterans.

Come early to enjoy a great dinner and meet your fellow Vietnam veterans. Family, friends, and the general public are always welcome too.

Donations of travel size toiletries and used bath towels are being requested for the September 18th membership meeting. The Lamb Center has showers, and these items are needed. So start saving those hotel complimentary toiletries when you are on vacation and on a business trip. Get your entire family and friends to contribute too!

BACK TO SCHOOL \$ 50 VISA GIFT CARDS

For the third year, the chapter has provided \$ 50 VISA gift cards to the school age children of VASH families. The VASH program success has resulted in an exponential increase in the number of children from the original 12 to the current 68 students from Head Start to college. The gift cards are to be used for back-to-school needs from clothes to school supplies. Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative and retired 32-year veteran teacher, remarked that it is important for a student academic success if these children can blend with the student population having normal clothes and school supplies. The cards were transferred to April Ballard, VASH Case Manager, who will distribute the cards. The Navy Federal Credit Union sold the gift cards without the activation fee. Chuck Harris and Len Ignatowski made it happen. Thank to both of you!



Members cheer on the Nationals, as our game winning attendance streak is alive and well. Photo by Bill Lynch

THE STREAK LIVES ON!

By Bill Lynch

Once again, Chapter 227 assisted a win for the Nationals. Thirty tickets were sold to chapter members to support the Washington Nationals baseball team on August 24, 2014, to a wild game. Some have stated that the game was one of the best they have ever seen and mentioned that it was wonderful to be there and not watch it on TV. The NATs were losing in the first 3 innings 5-0 to the San Francisco Giants; where then the NATS (with a little help from the “rally pigeon” – maybe you could not see this on your TV) started to turn the game around for a final score of Giants–6 / NATS–14. Everyone had an enjoyable time. Hope to see more attendees at next year’s outing.”

Membership Drive Target: 300 Members

The chapter has been ranked as one of the top 25 largest VVA chapters for many years. The chapter has lost this honor due to other chapters’ membership growth which has not kept pace with membership losses and transfers. As of July 31, the chapter has 251 members while several members need to renew their memberships. Five new members are needed to be the 25th largest chapter providing that other chapters do not recruit any new members. AVVA membership is not included in the chapter membership size. A membership application is on page 3 of the newsletter. You are asked to recruit one new member to move us into the top chapters. Prospective members can view the chapter’s history, accomplishments, and events on our website at vva227.org. The membership target is 300 VVA members.

CHAPTER BRIEFS:

- **V.P. Featured in PSA:** Bruce Waxman is featured in a public service announcement for Final Salute with which the chapter has a strong relationship. Bruce is the male homeless veteran. <http://youtu.be/I52NQo1ZR2w>
- **Suits for Vets Needs a Helping Hand:** The Suits for Vets campaign has grown from one office to several Mitre offices and a federal office. The donated business attire success has expanded beyond employee participation to friends and neighbors of the employees to the extent that Chuck Harris needs a helping hand. If you want to participate in this joint program with Mitre Corporation, call Chuck Harris at 703-729-5665.
- **Used Books:** Charlie Klein's successful used book sale in partnership with Hole In The Wall Books store in Falls Church is in need of used books. 100% of each book sale funds the Vince Kaspar awards program, our community outreach program. Call Charlie at 703-509-9469 to donate your used books. Charlie asks that members not deliver books to the store, but give them to him.
- **AVVA Membership:** Members are encouraged to join AVVA to show our support for their hard work over the years at all levels of VVA. Applications can be obtained at <http://www.avva.org/> or see Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, at the monthly membership meeting/
- **Chapter Website:** The chapter's website, www.vva227.org, contains a wealth of information on our history, activities, events, and the chapter website has newsletters from the last several years. Our website has been instrumental in recruiting new members over the years. One member, who moved to Virginia, elected to transfer to the chapter despite having several Virginia chapters nearer to his home. When he was offered the opportunity to transfer to a closer chapter, he replied that he wanted to belong to an active chapter, which our website demonstrated that we are.

NETWORKING WORKS!

The chapter's expanding and successful network is resulting in greater assistance to veterans and wounded warriors.

- **VETERAN OUTREACH:** The Army Officers' Wives' Club of the Greater Washington Area gave a \$ 5,000 grant to assist homeless and needy veterans through the chapter's outreach program.
- **FINAL SALUTE:** Through the efforts of Bruce Waxman, the Army Officers' Wives' Club of the Greater Washington Area collected gasoline and metro fare cards for the homeless woman veterans in the Final Salute houses. Also, women business suits were donated.
- **SUITS FOR VETS:** Our partnership with the employees of Mitre Corporation and its affiliates resulted in a collection of \$ 4,424.01 for the Jos A. Banks and Target gift certificates for business attire for wounded warriors who are being medically discharged. Ten new suits were received for the wounded warriors' caretakers at the hospital too.
- **HOMELESS VETERAN APARTMENT HELP:** Much credit is due to the VASH case managers who struggle to overcome many obstacles to find an apartment for the homeless veterans with bad credit records. Anyone who is a member of a local relator association should bring this issue to their attention to implement a special process for homeless veterans in the VASH program. If interested, contact Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353.



Lyons PTSD Class with their memorial plaque march to The Wall. Photo by Bill Shugart

COMBAT PTSD VISIT

Despite high temperature and humidity that were reminiscent of our Vietnam days, the Combat PTSD Class from the Lyons VAMC, N.J. proudly honored their fallen brothers and sisters at The Wall on August 6th. The group included Vietnam veterans to today's wounded warriors.

Ben Buckley, Program Chairman, started the visit with his inspiring welcome. Len Ignatowski distributed a Veteran-U.S. flags lapel pin to each veteran. Many immediately placed the pin on their hat or shirt. The class marched to The Wall's apex where a brief ceremony was conducted and the student made memorial plaque was left at The Wall to honor their fallen comrades.

Ben Buckley, Bill Shugart, Len Ignatowski, and Lois Beck served as hosts, while Bill served as the official photographer. The next visit is scheduled for September 17th. Be there if you can.

VETERAN'S HOTLINE 1-800-273-8255

24 HOURS/ 7 DAYS A WEEK

DD-214 NEEDED: A copy of your DD-214 is needed for the chapter to comply with IRS regulations. Mail your copy to the chapter's post office box address. The social security number can be made illegible.

CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

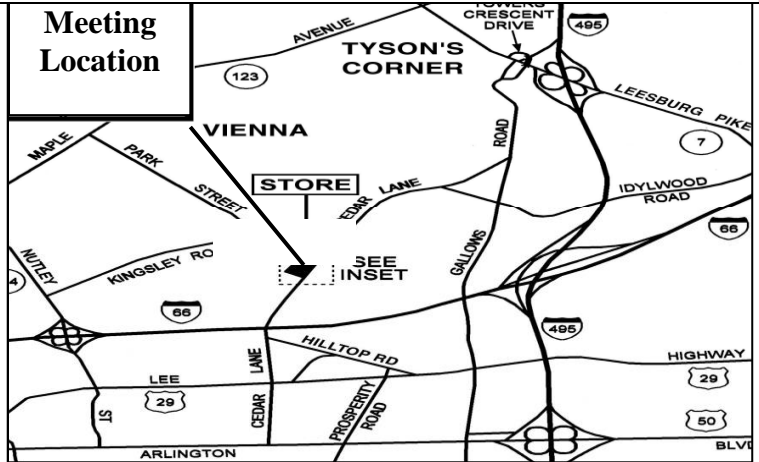
September 2014



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

- President:** Bruce Waxman – 703-323-0269
- Vice President:** Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
- Secretary:** Ron Ball
- Treasurer:** Chuck Harris
- Sergeant at Arms:** Jonathan Olson
- Board of Directors:** Bill Dumsick, Charlie Klein, Max Knouse, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Bob Tecklenburg, Scott Hurlley, Dennis Stephens, and Jay Kalner.
- AVVA Representative:** Diane Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- Newsletter Editor:** Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
- School Speaker's Panel:** Tom Stryer 703-323-9032
- Meeting Guest Speaker:** Len Funk 703-820-8118
- Suits for Veterans:** Chuck Harris 703-729-5665
- Lyons PTSD Visit:** Ben Buckley 703-978-9179
- Used Books Donation:** Charlie Klein 703-509-9469

Meeting Location



CHAPTER INFORMATION: 703-323-0269

CHAPTER WEB SITE: www.vva227.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane
Vienna, Virginia (Park St. & Cedar Lane)
Pre-Meeting Dinner (Optional): 6:45 PM
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM Phone: 703-698-8010

CHAPTER OPERATIONS PLAN

- Sept**
- 04: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 - 17: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at The Wall at 11:00 AM.
 - 18: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM, Speaker: Marc Leepson, "Who is Francis Scott Key". Bring your bath towels and bathroom toiletries for the Lamb center

- Oct**
- 02: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
 - 11: Fairfax City Fall Festival @ 10 am to 5 pm, Booth 356. Volunteers needed. ?? call Joe or Sharon Celesnik 703-938-7669
 - 16: Anniversary Membership Meeting 7:30 PM, Speaker: Bill English, "I Corps Logistical Challenges"
 - 29: Lyons Combat PTSD Class Visit: Meet at The Wall at 11:00 AM.

HOLIDAY PARTY HOST NEEDED – DATE TO BE SET – Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO VVA

Mail To: VVA Chapter 227, P.O. Box 5653, Arlington, Virginia 22205

Submit a copy of your DD-214 with application

Name: _____
 Male Female DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Chapter # 227
 Sponsor: (optional) _____

Type of membership:

- \$20 (1 Year) \$50 (3 Years)
- Life Member: \$200 (age 56-60)
- \$175 (61-65)
- \$150 (age 66-71)
- \$100 (age 72+)

Payment Method:

- Check Money Order
- Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

Email: _____

Credit Card Number: _____
 Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____

ELIGIBILITY: Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

Question, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353

WHO WAS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY?

Find out at the
September 18th Membership Meeting

AVVA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Bring a bath towel and bath toiletries for the Lamb Center
to the September membership meeting

LYONS COMBAT PTSD VISIT

September 17th @ 11:00 AM at The Wall

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER NOW!

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.
CHAPTER 227
DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER
P.O. Box 5653
Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653

Address Service Requested



OUR MISSION

To “Serve Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community and Our Country”
Since October 11, 1985